



THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC. NEWSFLASH

Summer 2008

IN THIS EDITION

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2008 CRA Membership

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CRA Christmas Party

The tradition continues – the CRA Christmas party will again be at La Mama, on Monday 10 December, 6pm. This is always a fantastic social get-together in a uniquely Carlton venue. Please plan to join us to celebrate another successful year for CRA with members and guests, and to enjoy our usual array of nibbles and drinks. Please RSVP by Friday 7 December: 9347 1411 or carltonresidents@gmail.com.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and best wishes for 2008.

Community Centre News UPDATE (Kathleen Syme Centre)

Following months of CRA lobbying, including all your letters, emails and phone calls, the Council has finally relented. At the full Council Meeting on 25 September, chaired by Lord Mayor So, the following resolution, moved by Cr Wilson and seconded by Cr Singer, was carried unanimously:

“That Council confirm that the Kathleen Syme Centre is Council’s preferred location for the Carlton Community Centre, and formally offer to purchase the facility from the State Government.”

We are now at first base!

Since the above Council meeting the University of Melbourne, which plans to purchase the entire RWH site, including KSC, has been busy undermining the CRA and CBA vision to develop KSC as a Community Centre for Carlton. Vice Chancellor, Prof Glyn Davis, wrote to Lord Mayor So, claiming a “*perceived need of Carlton residents and businesses for community facilities of various kinds*”, and that he understands the CRA “*is hopeful that CoM will provide the financial resources to acquire the building for CRA and meet the cost of its operation and maintenance*”.

The Vice Chancellor stated that this scenario seems unlikely to eventuate, and suggested the University “*assist the City in its wish to provide more extensive community facilities*”. He further suggested that the director of his

office meet with the Lord Mayor's nominees to discuss this matter *"to agree on parts of the building to assist in the provision of additional facilities and services"*. While this might appear a generous offer CRA had earlier met with the VC's senior staff, to be informed that the *"more extensive community facilities"* on offer amounted to occasional evening use of meeting space, not our long-sought Community Centre.

We understand that the University plans to redevelop the RWH as yet more student housing and will use KSC for aspects of its own "Knowledge Transfer" agenda. The KSC represents about 2% of the total floor area of the RWH complex; apparently 98% of the site is insufficient for the University of Melbourne, it wants 100%. Professor Davis and the University Council continue to ignore letters from CRA on these matters.

Likewise the RWH CEO, Ms Dale Fisher, is fighting a rearguard action to retain the KSC for hospital use after it has relocated to Parkville. Inexplicably, Ms Fisher continues to deny MCC and CRA access to the KSC and its building and site plans on the grounds that: *"no decision has been made regarding the timing of any prospective disposal of individual assets at the RWH main site, this includes the Kathleen Syme building. . . . Providing interested parties with detailed information in relation to individual assets, or engaging with third parties on an ad hoc basis, could undermine the public transparency of the process . . . The Board of the Royal Women's Hospital supports an open and transparent approach to any prospective sale of its assets and, accordingly, will ensure a consistent approach to interest expressed by all third parties"*.

This implies that local community aspirations carry no weight with the RWH Board; the University and developers will have an opportunity

to outbid Council on KSC as a community resource. Conversely, our information directly from Minister Pike was that following other government departments, the CoM would have first option to acquire the building at a price assessed by the Valuer General, before the property goes to the open market.

We recently appealed to Minister for Health, Hon. Daniel Andrews, and Dr Rhonda Galbally, Chair, RWH on this matter. Once again, we have had no response from them to date. In the meantime our Local Member, Bronwyn Pike, has written to Treasurer, John Lenders, and Health Minister, Daniel Andrews, supporting the CoM bid for the RWH site as an *"important local matter"*, requesting that the Council be given *"access to KSC to determine its suitability for community purposes ... [and] a timeline with regard to the sale process. . . ."*

CRA has influential members who may be in a position to informally lobby the University of Melbourne or RWH executives on KSC use by the Carlton community. We request your help with this campaign.

Clearly, we still have a way to go to achieve our goal on the KSC initiative – the establishment of a Community Centre in Carlton.

Cultural Precinct Development Fund

You will recall the "Cultural Precinct Enhancement Fund" (Spring 2007 Newsflash p.5) and the four imaginative proposals CRA submitted for consideration. We received a letter from George Lekakis, Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission, stating that *"it is not possible to invite your (CRA's) proposal to proceed"*. Instead, *"the proposal that the City of Melbourne has put forward for the Lygon Street cultural precinct"* will proceed. Council's proposals were also outlined in our last newsletter. All CRA's considerable efforts – consultations, meetings attended, submissions written -- seem to have achieved minimal results. The CRA committee is regularly invited to participate in consultative processes with the Council and State Government. We contribute much valuable time to this activity and present carefully considered submissions to the various authorities, which go unheeded. We are left with the distinct impression that the prime purpose is to allow these bodies to claim that CRA has been consulted.

We were somewhat heartened at a meeting on 21 November, when the Cultural Precinct Committee revealed that it was, in fact, acting upon one



CBD commuters flooding through the Lygon Street Precinct
(90% driver only)

CRA recommendation – the need for an appropriate visual “closure” at the north end of Lygon Street. CRA initially suggested that Vic Roads be consulted to create a roundabout, including an artistic feature, on the Lygon/Elgin Street intersection. This suggestion was dismissed by VicRoads as too difficult but they are looking at some other means of “beautifying” the extremely ugly transport hub in a form that would reflect the culture of the precinct.

While VicRoads continues to resist measures to calm the traffic in Lygon Street, insisting that it remain a major north-south arterial road, **our campaign to “traffic calm” the Lygon Street Precinct to make it more attractive for pedestrians and cyclists will continue, despite the above setback.**

However, we were also heartened that the Cultural Precinct Committee appears to be supportive of another crucial CRA recommendation that KSC Community Centre be used as a Cultural Centre for the Lygon Street precinct since it could be used to house a range of permanent historical displays and other exhibitions.

Greening median strips around University of Melbourne Eastern Precinct (College Square on Swanston)

CRA has long lobbied MCC Planning Committee for increased Median Strip Greening. The idea of returning median car parking areas to greenspace been around for many years and was emphasised in the **Carlton 2010** vision document. The CRA’s initial proposal is to establish median greenspace in Faraday and Cardigan Streets, adjacent to the Eastern Precinct student housing monolith, since streetscape improvements would serve to soften the visual impact of the 11-storey building.



Cardigan Street (looking south from Elgin St)



Faraday Street (looking west, towards Swanston St. tram terminus)

This area of Carlton currently has no greenspace.

The pedestrian entrance to Carlton along Faraday St., from the busy tram terminus fronting Melbourne University, resembles a supermarket car park: a very uninspiring vista. The proposed greening is a vision for the future away from the existing emphasis on cars, concrete and tarmac. It would substantially enhance the visual attractiveness of the general area.

On-street car parking is a sensitive issue in Carlton. You will recall trader outrage in 2006 over the installation of parking meters in Lygon Street. This was claimed at the time to be

a fatal blow, Lygon St was doomed, visitors would boycott the area, etc. As experience elsewhere has shown, meters ensure turnover of parking spaces and discourage some traders from monopolising street parking outside their premises. So it was also for Lygon St. Most traders now agree that parking meters have enhanced business activity. Traders and their staff should continue to be encouraged to park off-street to allow shoppers and visitors maximum parking flexibility. Carlton is very well served by public transport which everyone should be encouraged to use (leave the car at home!).

Streets near to Lygon Street and the Eastern Precinct, such as Faraday and

Cardigan Streets, are now dominated by over-utilised “free” street car parking while many off-street parking spaces remain vacant. Road rage and congestion are rife as motorists cruise around seeking a free on-street space. During business hours there are typically 100-300 vacant spaces in nearby off-street car parks and in the evening around 500-1000 vacancies (Elgin St., Lygon Court, Clock Tower, Royal Women’s Hospital etc).

There are a total of 98 parking spaces around the Eastern Precinct (Faraday St. & Cardigan St), including 25 metered and 15 residents-only. The CRA proposal is to reduce this to 43 on-street spaces, including the existing 15 residents-only spaces. We are of the strong view that returning median parking to greenspace should commence now, even if in a limited trial fashion.

The Council Planning Committee referred the matter to the Engineering Department (3 April 2007) to carry out a broad survey of Carlton residents and businesses on the greening proposal, possibly at a public meeting within the next few weeks. In view of opposition from some vocal traders to the loss of any street car parking spaces (despite many vacant off-street spaces), CRA has mounted compelling arguments in favour of median greening. However your active support will be vital to move the greening proposal forward.

CoM Sustainability and Regulatory Services Department has suggested median treatment options for Cardigan St between Grattan and Elgin Sts, and Faraday St between Swanston and Lygon Sts. The council’s Engineering Department recently briefed CRA on five options for “Streetscape Improvements” in Cardigan and Faraday Streets, including our preferred option above.

These options will be discussed at a public display and information session on

Monday 3 December, 5.30-7pm, Co-As-It, 189 Faraday St., Carlton.

Your attendance in support of streetscape improvements would be much appreciated.

Melbourne 2030 Audit Update

Melbourne 2030 (M2030) is a controversial planning policy introduced in 2002 aimed at concentrating residential development within 120 “Activity Centres” to curb urban sprawl (Spring 2007 Newsflash). The State Government has established an Audit Expert Group (AEG) to audit *M2030* implementation. The AEG has received 204 submissions from the development industry, planning professionals, resident groups (such as CRA) and individuals.

On Saturday 20 October, AEG Chairman, Prof. Rob Moodie, hosted a Workshop involving around 150 participants (including CRA) to consider *M2030* implementation. It was a lively session of wide-ranging and conflicting viewpoints. We learned that Melbourne has become the migration capital of Australia. The State Govt. has apparently given up on decentralisation and plans for most growth in Victoria to be concentrated in Melbourne, despite constraints of land supply, infrastructure, water etc. The decision to dredge Port Phillip Bay, rather than to develop Portland or Westernport as deep water ports, is in line with these Melbourne-centric policies. **Terms of Reference for the *M2030* Audit have**

been constrained so as to avoid any direct consideration of its policy base. The AEG will report to Planning Minister Madden later this year.

Residents groups have been universally critical of the Audit, its questionable Terms of Reference and inadequate consultative processes. We were therefore pleased to note at the Workshop that at least one member of the AEG appeared willing to engage with community concerns and potentially challenge the Government’s narrowly focused “top-down” planning policies.

Perhaps the AEG might report beyond its very constrained Terms of Reference; we certainly hope so!

On Sunday 21 October we participated in a ***Planning Backlash*** meeting (a coalition of residents groups from across the State) to



(Courtesy *The Melbourne Times*)

consider AEG deliberations and associated *M2030* issues. The meeting agreed to renew efforts to lobby the State Opposition and Greens to encourage debate on the issues in the Legislative Council, where the Govt. cannot dictate the agenda. We subsequently joined a very useful *Planning Backlash* meeting with Shadow Planning Minister Matthew



Another VCAT - M2030 triumph!

This 2-storey office building on Drummond St is being converted into a 4-storey complex of 58 "studio" apartments, in a heritage protected, 2-storey streetscape.

Guy, on 31 October. In response to the Audit Progress Report recently published by the government, Mr Guy claimed in a Media Release: *"The Audit Progress Report is an exercise in spin, rehashing census data and pumping out Government propaganda and was most likely drafted and edited in the Minister's office. If this is the best that can be produced, then the Audit is proving a waste of taxpayer's money"*.

CRA participated in all this activity because of its direct relevance to planning issues in Carlton. M2030 is regularly cited by developers and by VCAT to justify all manner of

inappropriate and controversial development proposals on our patch.

Planning Report

The Carlton Residents Association advocates on behalf of its members to preserve heritage values and amenity in Carlton through the preservation and maintenance of existing buildings and streetscapes and sympathetic development.

At the beginning of each month, the CRA's planning sub-committee meets to consider the previous month's planning applications for the 3053

postcode area. The committee is particularly alert to the following:

- overlooking or any other loss of amenity to neighbouring properties
- loss of amenity to the wider surrounding area (bulk, aesthetics, car parking)
- whether the application complies with the council's heritage overlay and height restrictions
- whether the proposed development threatens residential diversity (e.g. oversupply of student housing)

APP. NO.	ADDRESS	DETAILS	CONCERNS
TP-2007-594	71-79 Bouverie St	10-storey student housing block	Adds to oversupply of student housing in Carlton
TP-2007-649	139-144 Elgin St.	Student housing	Adds to oversupply of student housing
TP-2007-799	201-203 Faraday St (Shakahari)	Redevelopment as 2-storey building with 4 units and enlarged restaurant	Unconvincing rejection of car parking requirements; noise and odour nuisance to neighbouring properties
TP-2007-832	203-205 Canning St	Partial demolition and alterations to dwelling	Overlooking and streetscape
TP-2007-892	60 Barry St	Construction of new 4-storey dwelling	Demolition of heritage listed building; street frontage dominated by garage doors despite available rear access
TP-2007-951	22-24 Dorrit St	Construction of 2 new dwellings	Out of keeping with old, small-scale streetscape

Note: Should you wish to lodge an objection to a planning application that affects you, or to check the status of an application, you can log on to the City of Melbourne planning web page at: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm?top=81&pa=829&pg=1659>

Of the 30-odd applications considered during the past three months, the following gave cause for concern:

Should you wish to lodge an objection to a planning application that affects you, or to check the status of an application, you can log on to the City of Melbourne planning web page at: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm?top=81&pa=829&pg=1659>

Coalition of Residents Associations (CoRA)

CRA Vice-President Dr Jackie Watts coordinates CoRA, and reported on its meeting of 31 October:

CoRA's primary concern remains the So team's continued resistance to electoral reform argued by some councillors, residents groups, the business community and others. Cr Peter Clarke advised that the So team used its numbers at the Council meeting on 30 October, voting as a bloc to defeat his resolution which sought to rescind the earlier Council decision against a review of the electoral process. The Lord Mayor cast the deciding vote. When asked to account for this resistance to a review, the Lord Mayor cited CoM survey evidence, completely disregarding the overwhelming number of submissions calling for reforms from residents and the business community. CoRA finds the current impasse unacceptable to residents and has formulated various strategies in order to advance the matter. Cr Snedden proposed a review of CoM electoral processes be undertaken by the Electoral Commission, which was also rejected by the So team. Once again CoRA representatives expressed alarm, acute disappointment, frustration and great disquiet at these developments in relation to the forthcoming CoM elections. CoRA has agreed to write to the Minister for Local Government Richard Wynne to request that he intervene and direct that the CoM Council request a review.

Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC)

PCCC's role is to enhance safety and security in Carlton through community partnerships with police. CRA representative Dr Richard Tischer (who generously took over this role from the late Peter Allen) has been attending the monthly meetings. He has reported the following highlights: crime rate has declined in Carlton, however assaults, robberies, bike theft, graffiti and street beggars are still with us. Traders are planning Xmas events on Lygon Street and the Piazza. Police have received a \$5000 grant to host a Carlton Camp for Kids next year. There will be increased education and policing of cyclists. Police are seeking CRA support in their community policing role and will address us at a future General Meeting.

CRA Dinner Get-together

On Monday 22 October 28 members and friends gathered at Dimattina's Restaurant to enjoy a convivial meal and an address by after-dinner speaker Dr Kate Shaw, Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Melbourne. Kate enthralled us with her informative talk on "The imprint and impact of students on Carlton". A lively question and discussion time followed Kate's talk, which elaborated some of the demographic complexities of student housing. The long-term impact of vastly increased numbers of international students housed in minimal, purpose-built accommodation is a disturbing social experiment, which impacts on Carlton's social fabric and alienates international students. All this is largely driven by economic considerations: revenue for the universities and profit for developers. We wait and watch. All agreed it was a very worthwhile evening – valuable insight into the student housing situation, and a great opportunity to chat with friends and neighbours.

City Council News Grant to CRA

City of Melbourne Community Service Grants Program has generously allocated \$5000 to CRA under the "Emergency Needs" provisions. This welcome addition to CRA coffers will allow improved Newsflash production and distribution (evident in this current edition) and dissemination of information, fund essential office supplies and equipment and assist in our diverse operations

Council CEO Resignation

Controversial City of Melbourne CEO David Pitchford is moving on. Having presumably "cut his teeth" on the still evolving and somewhat problematic Melbourne Docklands project, he will move to Dubai to head the world's largest waterfront development. Mr Pitchford joined the CoM in 2003, having been Chief Operating Officer of the Commonwealth Games. This may account for the "events" rather than "services" emphasis of his administration. His departure is not universally mourned, least of all by the 140 council staff recently made redundant and some concerned Councillors. However, despite low staff morale and financial strife, Mr Pitchford continued to enjoy strong support from Lord Mayor So until the end. CEO is the only staff appointment the elected Council is delegated to make. Geoff Lawler will be interim CEO pending a permanent appointment. (Jackie Watts)

CoM Place Managers

The City of Melbourne has restructured its relationship with residents and business. Formerly five Place Managers were allocated to various areas within CoM in a quasi PR /Community liaison role, to collaborate and share concerns between Council and the community. In the December 2005 Newsflash we introduced CoM's Place Manager

Kate Wright. Kate's role, like that of her five colleagues, was to make worthwhile projects happen by liaising between the various branches of the Council and groups within the City of Melbourne such as CRA and CBA. In most instances, the answers to community needs involve several council departments. The Place Manager helped us clarify our ideas and then brought us together with the relevant Council staff, thereby setting the wheels in motion. In the latest CoM restructuring, this role has been reduced to one "Community Connections Officer" (to be increased to two as the role develops). This downsizing constitutes another unfortunate example of the CoM becoming less accessible to the community. The population of the municipality has increased yet access to Council has decreased - presumably as a cost saving? (Jackie Watts)

Community Information

Did you know?

If you notice a dangerous, unsightly or undesirable situation in Carlton – e.g. broken street tree branch resting on power lines, illegally dumped vehicle or rubbish, council contractors wasting water – you can report it to the council by calling 9658 9658. You should ask for the case number so that you can follow it up if nothing is done within a reasonable time. Most complaints are handled quickly but some matters – illegally dumped cars and rubbish – require due warning to be given to offenders before the council acts to remove the car or rubbish, so allow at least a week to go by before checking on progress.

Noise problems

If you are plagued by excessive noise from clubs, hotels or entertainment centres, Council recommends that you register your complaint on-line. For strife with licensed premises: go to www.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Click on A-Z of whole site for more information on Noise. You will find links to the Police, Liquor Licensing Board and the EPA on this page. Also note that the CoM has a Manager of Safety and Well-being, Colleen Lazenby and is currently drafting a CoM Late Night Policy. Make your views known.

New Royal Women's Hospital

The PR department of the RWH has asked us to publish the following:

"Due to open in June 2008, the new Royal Women's Hospital is quickly making its transformation from that of a construction zone to a state-of-the-art hospital on the corner of Grattan St and Flemington Rd in Parkville. Detailed planning for its relocation is currently underway to ensure a smooth transition in June."

Carlton residents cameo

CRA member Dr. Andrew Turner reports on a recent assignment in Indonesia. Before retirement Andrew was Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer.

"I recently visited Indonesia as part of a team of Australian and Indonesian trainers seeking to boost Indonesia's response to Bird Flu. This infection occurred first in July 2003 but control was not initiated until early 2004, allowing infection to spread widely. Bird Flu is now endemic in the poultry populations in the nine most populous provinces. Indonesia has had more human cases and deaths from Bird Flu than any other country, nearly one-third of world cases. Initially human cases were confined to Java and Sumatra, until Bali developed cases in August 2004, which raised the stakes."

The project in which I'm involved aims to increase vaccination of poultry and limit the spread of infection between poultry flocks. The project, funded by AusAid, is to limit the spread of infection by instructing trainers to

teach others on vaccination of poultry, and to engage communities to accept behavioural changes to vaccinate and husband their poultry. Phases 1 and 2 of the project were conducted over 7 weeks in 3 locations.

As indicated, Bird Flu occurred in humans on Bali just before commencement of phase 2 of the project, and a further human case occurred within Sumatra as phase 2 of the training was taking place. Phases 3 and 4 were scheduled after Ramadan in late October/early November, when participants presented their training programs and demonstrated their capability to train people to vaccinate poultry and engage people to achieve behavioural change in communities to vaccinate and practice measures to limit the spread of infection between flocks."

We plan to make news of CRA members a regular feature: please send us your stories.

Coming Events

- Streetscape Improvements in Cardigan and Faraday Streets.

Streetscape improvements will be discussed at a public display and information session on Monday 3 December, 5.30-7pm, at **Co-As-It, 189 Faraday St., Carlton.**

Your attendance in support of streetscape improvements would be much appreciated.

- CRA Christmas Party Monday,** 10 December at La Mama Theatre, Faraday St. from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm. Please RSVP by 7 December. Email carltonresidents@gmail.com
- Summer Social Evening Sunday March 2, 2008** at the Carlton Gardens Tennis Club.

Carlton Tennis Club President and CRA member Brian Falconer has generously offered Club facilities in the lovely Carlton Gardens for a CRA

Summer Social Evening. Plans for this exciting event are being developed, and thus far include dinner, a speaker and tennis for those so inclined.

Make a diary note now for 2008 – March 2

We will inform you of details when they are confirmed.

Greta Bird
President

CRA 2008 Membership

New / Renewal Membership Application Tax Invoice: ABN 87716923898

Annual membership runs from January to December each year. Please complete the form below.

- ☐ I/We would like to apply to become a member/renew membership of the Carlton Residents Association Inc.
- ☐ I/We agree to comply with Rules of the Association.

Name/s (please print):

Home Address:

Postal Address:

Phone/s: **Mobile/s:**

Email/s (please print):

Signature/s:

Date:

Membership Costs Rates include GST.

Membership type: (please tick)

Annual Fee

Concession Fee*

Single:

☐ **\$26**

☐ **\$13**

Family:

☐ **\$39**

☐ **\$26**

**Concession Fee entitlement: Pension recipients and students*

*** Family membership: Please include names of all adult members for family membership*

Payment Options (please tick): ☐ **Cheque** (enclosed) ☐ **E.F.T.** ☐ **Cash**

Amount: \$

If making EFT payment - CRA Direct Credit Details: ANZ Bank BSB 083-170 Account Number: 55-706-0596

Send form by post, fax or email: Secretary The Carlton Residents Association Inc. PO Box 1140, Carlton 3053 FAX: 9347 1411 Email: secretarycra@gmail.com